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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Machine Repair Plant No 3, Liberec/Conditions in the
Liberec district and in Radčice

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Machine Repair Plant, Liberec

2. "The machine repair plant (Opravná strojírna národní podnik, závod č 3) at Liberec is one of three plants managed by a directorate in Usti nad Labem. Závod č 1 is at Usti nad Labem. Závod č 2 is at Zvůň u Prahy.
3. "There are about 180 employees in Závod č 3 at Liberec. The manager is (fnu) Mikes, who has no technical qualifications. His deputy is (fnu) Grabner. The chairman of the CP organization is (fnu) Horak. The commander of the militia is Vaclav Klatovsky.
4. "The plant concentrates on the repair of transport and loading machinery for mines, quarries and building sites. There has been a constant lack of special steel, iron plates for conveyors, rubber and electric motors. These shortages have meant failure in achieving production targets. Presumably in April 1953 the turning lathe workshop (frezarna) was fulfilling the plan by 55-60%; the railway engine workshop (lokomotivka) by 35% and the locksmith shop (zamecnická dílna) by 90%.
5. "There are no shockworkers in the plant, and the working morale is low. This is mainly because over 10% of the workers are transplanted administrative and white-collar workers, private craftsmen (živnostníci) and ex-army officers. They are frequently accused by setting a bad example and harming worker morale.
6. "In spring 1953 [prior to 30 May 53 currency reform] unskilled workers at the plant earned about 1,000 kc net weekly. Skilled workers earned 1,200 - 1,300

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weekly. The plant published a weekly paper, the 'Stalinec', but subscription is not compulsory.

Conditions in the Liberec District

7. "The Praga factory at Straz nad Nisou was converted into a military factory in 1952. It is now called Normal. Its production includes radar equipment.
8. "Uranium ore deposits have been reported near Krizan pod Jestedem, in the direction of Jablonny pod Jestedem. Test drillings were being made in spring 1953.
9. "At the beginning of 1953 butter and sugar disappeared from shops in the Liberec district. Only jam was available in sufficient quantity, at 65 kc per kg. There has been a shortage of such simple medicines as aspirin and 'ointments'. Special prescriptions are needed.
10. "In spring 1953 a contagious disease referred to as 'black jaundice' (cerna zlouterka) was spreading among persons in the Liberec district. Rumors circulated that it had been caused by rotten canned meat and stale margarine mixed with fresh.
11. "In January 1953 some 35 butchers in the Liberec district were arrested on charges of forfeiting ration cards, slaughtering cattle and pigs illegally and purchasing decayed carcass meat for use in sausages.

Conditions in Radcice

12. "In spring 1953 the chairman of the local National Council at Radcice in the Liberec district was (fnu) CaganeK. The secretary was (fnu) DrevineK. The security referent was (fnu) Prenosil. The head of the food and supply department was Mme Marie Slaba. The leader of the Youth League organization was Anezka Drevinkova. The chairman of the village CP organization was (fnu) DrevineK, son of the secretary of the local National Council. The deputy chairman of the local National Council, Mme (fnu) Holoubkova, also issued food ration coupons.
13. "There is no SNB station in Radcice. The nearest is at Straz, under the command of (fnu) Smejkal, a former member of the Czech Socialist Party who has become a staunch Communist.
14. "A unit of SVAZARM, the Czech paramilitary organization, was organized in Radcice in summer 1952. As from January 1953 all men, except invalids, have been ordered to participate. Their training consists mainly of trench digging, infantry drill, partisan training and mine-laying. Once a month they do an all-day hitch.
15. "The chairman of the local Farmers' Cooperative at Radcice in spring 1953 was (fnu) Spasch. He succeeded Václav Černý who organized the cooperative. The Radcice cooperative employs about 20 ex-private farmers. It is the second best in the Liberec district. The worst is at Krasna Studanka; the members of that cooperative lost 1000 which 1000 potatoes crop to rot in the fields. In 1952 all cooperatives in the Liberec district, including the one at Radcice, were hit by the East-Asian plant disease. Ten of the 40 cows owned by the Radcice cooperative died.

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